

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

FRANK EDWIN PATE,

Petitioner,

v.

**BENJAMIN, HOUSING
DIRECTOR FOR VOLUNTEERS
OF AMERICA (VOA),**

Respondent.

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Civil Action No. **3:25-CV-1233-L-BK**

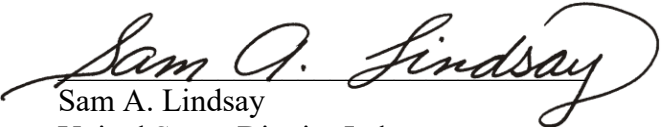
ORDER

On May 30, 2025, the Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge (“Report”) (Doc. 6) was entered, recommending that the court dismiss without prejudice this action for lack of jurisdiction because Petitioner’s challenge to his housing placement and conditions of confinement at a halfway house should have been brought as a civil rights action, not as a habeas action under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Petitioner filed objections to the Report, contending that the court should nevertheless reach the merits of his claims, but he fails to address the jurisdictional basis for the magistrate judge’s Report and recommendation. Absent jurisdiction, the court has no authority to address the merits of Petitioner’s challenges or claims. The court, therefore, **overrules** his objections.

Having considered the file, record in this case, and Report, and having conducted a de novo review of that portion of the Report to which objection was made, the court determines that the findings and conclusions of the magistrate judge are correct, and **accepts** them as those of the court. Accordingly, the court **dismisses without prejudice** this action for lack of jurisdiction.

Further, considering the record in this case and pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22(b), Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 proceedings, and 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c), the court **denies** a certificate of appealability.* The court determines that Petitioner has failed to show: (1) that reasonable jurists would find this court’s “assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong;” or (2) that reasonable jurists would find “it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right” and “debatable whether [this court] was correct in its procedural ruling.” *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). In support of this determination, the court **accepts** and **incorporates by reference** the Report filed in this case. In the event that a notice of appeal is filed, Petitioner must pay the appellate filing fee or submit a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal.

It is so ordered this 2nd day of July, 2025.


Sam A. Lindsay
United States District Judge

* Rule 11 of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 Cases provides as follows:

(a) Certificate of Appealability. The district court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant. Before entering the final order, the court may direct the parties to submit arguments on whether a certificate should issue. If the court issues a certificate, the court must state the specific issue or issues that satisfy the showing required by 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). If the court denies a certificate, the parties may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22. A motion to reconsider a denial does not extend the time to appeal.

(b) Time to Appeal. Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a) governs the time to appeal an order entered under these rules. A timely notice of appeal must be filed even if the district court issues a certificate of appealability.